

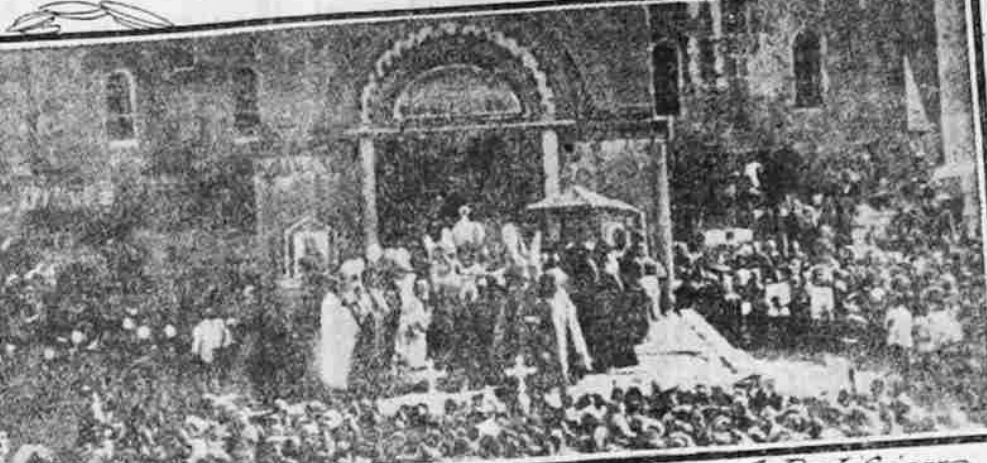
# ARMENIA - The Cradle of the World



A Wedding Party



Map Showing Location of Armenia



A Religious Feast Day



Vardzia, the Cliff Palace of 13th Century Armenian Queen



Mt. Ararat, Where the Ark Rested After the Flood



Refugees Being Guarded by a Turkish Soldier

## A Short Sketch of the Early History of This Pathetic Nation Which May Be the Ward of the United States

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THE persecution of the Armenians by the Moslems has come at regular intervals for many centuries. In recent years these onslaughts on this Christian people have attracted the attention of the entire Christian world and measures adopted to prevent the repetition of the dastardly assaults. The wily Turk has always invented some pretext for his crime and has been prolific in his promises of good behavior, but his treacherous nature combined with the bigotry and intolerance of his religion has always found some way to resume his persecutions. During the present war the Armenians, innocent of any wrong doing, were the victims of Moslem devilry far more relentless and extensive than any exhibition of harsh treatment in the past. All eyes turned to the United States for aid and collections were made for the immediate relief of the refugees. It has been seriously suggested that in the settlement of the many problems growing out of the war that the unfortunate Armenians may be placed under our protection.

### Early History

The early history of these people is especially interesting, for Mount Ararat, where Noah's Ark went aground, is in the center of their land. The Armenians trace their ancestry back to Hahg or Hahk, the grandson of Japheth. His descendant Aram, who was called Armenia by the Persians, gave to the race their name—Armenians. Their country at that time extended over fifty thousand square miles and they paid tribute to a line of kings and boasted of a civilization and culture far above the neighboring countries and over a thousand years before Christ they were a distinctly Armenian people.

east nations to appear in history for it is recorded that in the sixth century, B. C., Tigranes of the Haiz dynasty succeeded in freeing his nation from subjection of the Assyrians and the Medes. Subdued by Alexander the Great, the country paid tribute to representatives of the Seleucid kings until 190, B. C. when they revolted against Antiochus the Great, and for a time the province was divided. The greater part of the country being ruled by the Parthians, except for a brief period of Persian domination. The most celebrated Prince was Tigranes the Great, who quarreled with Rome on account of his father-in-law and was overthrown by Lucullus in 69, B. C. Armenia then became a disputed state between the Parthians and the Roman Empire and was ruled alternately by each one. In 387, A. D., the Byzantine and Persians divided the country and between them ruled alternately for a number of years.

### First Christians

Christianity was introduced into that land in 295 by Gregory the Illuminator, Zoroastrianism, the old religion, collapsed when their King Tridates III was converted and the people following their monarch's example the earliest Christian church in the world was founded.

The introduction of Christianity reinvigorated the national life and gave a great impulse to literary activity. Under the Emperor Theodosius, Armenia was divided by treaty of the two halves—the Romans and the Persians.

The religion of the inhabitants of the Roman part attracted people to the Roman half, and on seeing this Christian enlightenment the Persians appointed a native Armenian prince, who was a Christian, to rule over their section and the people soon found that it was a better government than that of the Romans, and the benefits of a high civilization were given to the people. Such was the environment in which the development of the Armenian nationality went along contemporaneously with the other nations of Europe. The Armenian development was signified by that elementary consolidation of the people due to the separation of the Armenian from the Greek Church. In the year 637, A. D., the Arabs suddenly appeared on the scene and proved a formidable enemy, wresting the land from the Romans, Persians and Macedonians and putting the Armenians under an odious bondage in their attempt to conquer the Eastern World for Allah and for Mohammed, his Prophet. During the ninth century the Caliphs re-established a portion of the ancient empire under Ashod I, the descendant of an ancient Jewish family, and for more than one hundred years the Armenian race enjoyed peace.

### Helped Crusaders

The people welcomed the Crusaders, and through their assistance the Crusaders were enabled to reach Armenia as promptly as they did. However, when the ardor of the Crusaders

had abated Armenia was deprived of the assistance of the Western Christians and their king was driven from the throne. The Mussulman came, and for five hundred years the history of the Armenians, crushed beneath the Persian yoke and struck down by the sword of the Turk, suffered one unintermitted record of atrocities. In 1604 the Persian Shah Abbas laid waste the country and carried off forty thousand of the inhabitants to Persia and placed them in a certain section.

The exiled Armenians clung to their religion with a zeal all the more desperate because it was the only link that bound them to patriotism. They had a strong sense of responsibility and believed in the importance of moral principles through all their persecution. In 1522 a part of Armenia was taken from the Persians by the Turks and incorporated in their Empire. Russia secured some of it in 1828; and in 1878 the Land of the Bear took possession of a still larger part of Turkish Armenia. At present this ancient land is still divided between the Russians, Persians and Turks, and the Armenian people are scattered throughout the world.

### Racial Characteristics

All through their existence as a nation there has been little intermarriage with other races and they have maintained their physical characteristics since the early ages. They are of medium height, with dark skin, black eyes and luxuriant black hair.

The women are especially pretty on account of their rich coloring. As a people they are industrious and intelligent and have the aptitude of the Jew in commercial business, being the principal merchants in the cities of the Far East.

They are noted for their literature which has a realism, nationalism and symbolism rarely found among the nations of the Far East. Many of the men who have been educated in American and European universities have returned home and founded schools for the poorer classes. They are devoted to their Church, which like the people, is democratic, all its officials being elected by the communicants. Family life is sacred, and from the days of Tigranes to the present the women of the family have been held in high esteem.

Foreigners are always welcome to their country, and the students of archaeology and art will find it rich in wonders. The first native traveler meets will boast that the Gospel was preached to his ancestors by the first Apostles and that the Armenians were the first to adopt Christianity as the religion of the State.

### Archaeology

Cities abounding in superb palaces and temples in Armenia exist from remote antiquity. Wonderful examples of architecture dating from the time of Armin, the grandson of Hahg, the Conqueror of Nimrod, still exist and delight the lover of ancient history. Travel is exceedingly hard through no

fault of the Armenian, but on account of his rulers who do not think it worth while to build roads or allow any sort of comfortable hotels to be set up in this country. In fact, the officials of both Russian and Turkish Armenia do not encourage the visits of travelers lest they should learn too much first hand of the ill treatment of the people.

One part of the country is especially interesting to those of us who have visited the cliff dwellings of Southwestern Colorado and in New Mexico, for at Vardzia, a city of remote antiquity which the Armenians believe to have been founded in the twelfth century by one of the kings as a summer home for his daughter who later became queen, one finds evidences of the same life and civilization as is seen in these cliff houses of Western United States. The history of our own ruins is unknown and there is absolutely no way of finding anything about them as they must have existed long before history touched our part of the world. One thing is certain, and that is that the masonry of this cave-like home of the thirteenth century Armenian queen and that of the Cliff Palace in Mesa Verde Park, New Mexico, are exactly the same. Both ruins are hung in the perpendicular walls of a canyon and to reach them one must climb over huge boulders and up crude ladders. The history of the one in Armenia is well preserved, and one may follow a guide through this ancient palace built in the rocks, inaccessible to reach at least, by the usual means. Two old deacons reside in the caves and see that things are not changed. The caves are an irregular horizontal row of caves each one of which is plastered with perfect masonry. Any number of grottoes with porticoes have been built. The rooms are hollowed out of the rocks in some places and in others built up with masonry.

There is also a church and several tunnels which lead to caves far back in the rock. Only a few crude paintings are found on the walls of our cliff ruins, but the walls of Queen Thamar's cave are well decorated with frescoes of the Infant Christ and strange pictures of the Virgin Mary—one especially beautiful, with an aureole around her head. The color-

ing represents the Mother of Christ as an Egyptian in every way. The Virgin and Child are also shown together. Indeed, a book might be written showing the similarity of the Armenian Queen's summer home and our own cliff ruins in the southwest. Were they of the same period?

### Mt. Ararat

Naturally, Mt. Ararat is another place of interest to the traveler. It is nearly always snow-capped, but is best climbed in early September when the snow is lightest. It is ascended on horseback with a number of porters who carry the food and tenting. The trip of about five miles is very hard and not unlike that of climbing any other high mountain, except for its historic interest. It is between twelve and fifteen thousand feet in height. Owing to the uncomfortable mist one stays less than an hour on the summit. Standing on the spot where the guides declare the Ark rested, the travelers look out over the valley and think of the passage:

"In the second month, the seventeenth of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up and the windows of heaven were opened, and the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights."

The air is pure and sweet, and far down in the valley the patient Armenian farmer is tilling the soil—a rich valley where cotton, rice, fruit and tobacco grow in profusion. Peaceful for the time being, his home may be burned and his wife and children massacred before sunset. These poor people who out their doubtful existence in the very shadow of the scene of God's punishment to man, and always subject to the rule of the Unbeliever.

The Armenian towns have wonderful cathedrals each one of which is worth a chapter on architecture and carving.

A land rich in mineral wealth as well as agriculture, peopled with a race devoted to its country and its history, and anxious to show its patriotism by doing unto others as it would have them do, it is entitled to be considered the "ward" of the Christian world.

## MEMORIAL TREES for The College Campus



Town of Collamer, Indiana, with 200 inhabitants planting trees in honor of its fifteen sons who served in the War. Each man was made by some relative or friend a Boy Scout and a Camp Fire Girl. Each had a spade with which to dig around the roots.



Memorial Tree to Department of Agriculture Soldier Dead. Secretary Houston is holding the tree which has been set White Col. Henry S. Graves, Chief Forester (on right) and Dr. Wm. A. Taylor, Chief of Bureau of Plant Industry (on left) are showing the dirt around the roots.

Trees Are Fitting Tributes To Our Fallen Heroes—Many Will Be Planted This Year—The American Forestry Association Wants To Record and Mark Each Tree.

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PERHAPS there was no one class into which the hand of the god of war reached further than into the institutions of learning of the country. The call of the country was answered gladly by the thousands of young men who left the opportunity of the great commencement for the great adventure. Now another commencement nears and those thousands will not be forgotten by those they left behind. For those who made the

supreme sacrifice, memorial trees are to be planted on the campus where they dreamed the dreams of what the future held for them. These trees that will be planted this year will be the living symbols in their honor. The god of war even reached into the high schools where many heard the call and these schools too will plant memorial

plate can be attached to each one of them, bearing the names of the soldiers.

Of course, it rejoices me greatly to know that the citizens of my county have, under your leadership, been among the first to take advantage of this idealistic and patriotic movement.

May Heaven send sunshine and showers upon these trees so that they may live to distant ages, vital reminders to the youth of every generation of what America has done and great incentives to the doing of the fine things for which the Republic has been so remarkably conspicuous.

With sincere congratulations, I am,

Very truly yours,

John R. Bradwell

Martin L. Galtbreath,  
Collamer, Ind.

### Letter from Vice President Marshall

aims to register all memorial trees planted in this country and asks the co-operation of the public in getting together the honor roll. A certificate of registration has been devised for each one planting a tree so here is the opportunity to have your tree recorded in the permanent record. A marker has also been devised by the association.

Just the other day the people of Collamer, Indiana planted a memorial tree. This is Vice-President Marshall's home county and he wrote them the letter reproduced above.

If the service had been held in a great cathedral or if there had been 100,000 people present, it could not have been more impressive and more patriotic in character than when the two hundred inhabitants of Collamer gathered to do honor to the eighteen sons of that town who were serving in the great war.

Every person took an active part in the ceremony. Everyone, young and old, after the tree had been set in place, took one of the spades and deposited some dirt around the roots. The spades which were borne by the Boy Scout and a Camp Fire girl were decorated with small American flags.

The first part of the services were held in the village school. There a report was made on each individual soldier from Collamer, as to the time he entered the service, his duties, location at that time and anything he might have said about the service and his home while away. This recital was made by some member of his family, father or mother, brother or sister, or by a friend. There was also a short dedicatory address by A. R. Fleck, county superintendent; explanatory remarks by Mrs. Oca Jellison, principal of the school whose husband was then in action in France; and prayer by Rev. Cyrus Fleck. Then the audience marched outside and formed a hollow square around the tree. Inside of which the tree had been placed; and as each one passed inside he or she took one of the spades and placed a spadeful of dirt around the tree. Prayer and the singing of "America" closed the simple and impressive exercises.

In Washington the first memorial tree was planted by David S. Houston, Secretary of Agriculture and Colonel Henry S. Graves, chief forester of the U. S., and both of them vice-presidents of the American Forestry Association.

This tree was placed in the department grounds in honor of the soldier dead of the department. Following this planting the American Forestry Association announced its plan for registering and marking the memorial trees of the country.

At the planting Colonel Graves said: "Many members of our department gave up their lives in the great war. We will not forget the part they played in that struggle nor their sacrifice. Today we are planting a tree for them. Nature will build from this living monument. Every year it will strike its roots deeper, raise its crown higher, and spread its branches wider. It will grow in stature and strength. It will grow in the hearts of the people of our own appreciation of the devotion of the boys who gave all that their country and the world might be a better and a happier place to live in."

But tree planting will not be done by individuals alone. All over the country trees are being planted by motor highway associations, women's clubs, and in many states the country unit plan has been worked out where by each county will have a memorial tree. It is all these trees the American Forestry Association wants to record in a national roll of honor.